

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in this application.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abileah et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,594,569).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration.

Formal Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for initialing and returning the PTO 1449 form filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on May 6, 2002. However the Examiner failed to return the PTO 1449 forms filed with the Information Disclosure Statements on November 8, 2001 and August 9, 2002. Applicants kindly request the Examiner to initial (if not already done) and return the PTO 1449 forms filed November 8, 2001 and August 9, 2002.

Rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Abileah

The Applicants respectfully submits that the Examiner is believed to be incorrect in contending that that Abileah discloses all the features of the claimed invention except for the features of in-plane retardation and Nz value.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, the slow axis of **each of the retardation film** to be parallel with the absorption axis of the polarizing element.

Abileah discloses two retardation films that are oriented in a manner substantially **perpendicular** to one another, or that they are arranged so as to define an angle from about 75-105° (Fig. 5 and col. 10 lines 3-6). Further, at least one retardation film of Abileah has a slow axis that is not parallel with an absorption axis of the linear polarizer 5. Accordingly, Abileah

does not teach or suggest the feature “a slow axis of each of the retardation films is parallel with an absorption axis of the polarizing element” of claim 1.

Further, the present invention, as recited in claim 1 requires that one of the retardation films have an N_z value of 0.65-0.85 and another has a value 0.15-0.35.

However, Abileah specifies the relationship between n_x , n_y and n_z , i.e., “ $n_x > n_y > n_z$ ” (see e.g., Abstract). In such a case, the refractive indices of Abileah cannot possibly satisfy the claimed feature “one of the retardation film has N_z value of 0.65-0.85, and another has that of 0.15-0.35”. By teaching a different set of values, Abileah teaches away from the present invention.

Furthermore, Abileah discloses that the optical axes of R1 and R2 cross at an angle of 75-105° as mentioned above. This would mean that Abileah permits the presence of a retardation of a transmitted light. This is believe to satisfy the object of Abileah which is to obtain a display having a large viewing angle. However, such an objective will further steer a skilled artisan away from the present invention.

Claims 2-4 are dependant on claim 1. Therefore, they are allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

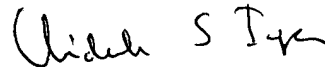
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/986,432

Attorney Docket No.: Q67173

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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